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Slinking away from World Court

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PRESIDENT Reagan's Administration has pledged a worldwide campaign against terrorists. But it withdrew from one tribunal for mustering international opposition to terrorism, one we had upheld in the past, in fact been a champion of — the World Court. America withdrew from the court for a very simple reason. We were guilty of terrorism and had no defense to make.

Nicaragua had brought charges against us for the mining of its harbor. That was a CIA activity, a terrorist activity, one against international law, one that our own Congress rebuked the agency for. We were caught red-handed, and surrendered the high ground of principle in order to continue our terrorism.

Congress tried to suspend the

terroristic activities, but has failed. There is new evidence that it did not cease. The evidence comes in an affidavit for the World Court, one which confirms what has been alleged by lower-placed observers. This time the charge comes from one of the major contra leaders, Edgar Chamorro. He has testified under oath on America's form of terrorism.

With American support, contra leaders, in the words of Chamorro, "would arrive at an undefended village, assemble all the residents in the town square, and then proceed to kill — in full view of the others — all persons working for the Nicaraguan government, including police, local militia members, party members, health workers, teachers, and farmers."

This was a recruiting technique. "It was easy to persuade those left alive to work with the contras,"

Chamorro says.

American military support to the contras was cut off by Congress because of the illegal mining of the harbor. But the White House disregarded Congress's sole Constitutional power to make war, and continued to make strategy and raise funds for the contras, using Government personnel from the National Security Council. Two of the NSC officials told the contras, according to Chamorro, "President Reagan remained committed to remove the Sandinistas from power" (something the President was denying at the time). The contras were informed that President Reagan was telling a different story in public to fool American voters during the election year, but that he would "see to it that we received all the support that was necessary."

Since Chamorro was willing to talk about what the contras are actually up to, he has been ostracized by other leaders. But his story, it is safe to say, will be vindicated as further evidence comes in. It fits the pattern of past CIA operations in the area — the buying off of journalists in surrounding countries, the financing of lobbyists' efforts, the comic book encouraging sabotage, the manual on assassination as a persuasive technique.

Each of these stories surfaced, was denied, was confirmed, and glided from public awareness. Apparently we do not care what our terrorists do when we say we oppose terrorism. We only mean the other guys' use of our methods. The rhetoric is moral, the real opposition merely tactical. No wonder we slink away from the World Court and try to hide our deeds. They badly need the darkness.